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Travel

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State Dept. review completed

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FM SECSTATE

TO: Amembassy Manila
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INFO: Amcongen Hong Kong

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Joint State-Defense-AID Message

For Ambassador and Senior Military Personnel

SUBJ: Staff Del Lowenstein-Moose-Ashworth Visit to Korea,
the Philippines and Japan

REF: State 189415

1. As you were informed in Reftel, James G. Lowenstein, Richard M. Moose, and George W. Ashworth, staff members for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC), will be visiting Korea, the Philippines and Japan, including military and other installations, as part of a three-week trip beginning October 20, 1972. We have no indication at present that they plan to visit any other country although they will be spending one day privately in Hong Kong enroute.

2. Staff Del have stated that the purpose of the trip will be to bring up to date the SFRC's information concerning US interests, commitments and programs in the countries which they will be visiting. They have also been asked to meet with American officials representing all aspects of US, civilian and military activities in the countries they visit. We have no firm information but anticipate that Staff Del will produce

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public release of such portions of the report as Executive Branch agrees to declassify.

3. Letter from SFRC Chairman Fulbright to Secretary Rogers (similar letters have been sent to Secretary Laird, CIA Director Helms and NSA Director General Phillips) includes a statement of identical to the purpose of the visit set forth in the preceding paragraph. We anticipate that they will want to travel to various areas in Korea and the Philippines and that they will desire appointments with local officials of the countries in which they are visiting. Staff Del has advised that they are making this trip on behalf of the full committee rather than as a part of the Symington Subcommittee.

4. The policy of State, AID and Defense is to cooperate in assisting the staff to pursue its investigation which is well within the responsibilities of the congress. We plan to advise them of the sense of this instruction. Staff members Lowenstein & Moose were formerly with the Department of State and Moose also with NSC Staff, and have had considerable experience with SFRC. They are highly knowledgeable and well prepared. From preliminary discussions here and recent experience we tend to believe that as staff members of the SFRC their approach will be thorough, sophisticated and understanding of foreign relations implications.

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5. They have indicated special interest in the following: assessment of threats to the Pacific area and individual countries concerned, internal and external political situations, US military deployments and bases, US/Philippine negotiations, economic situations in Korea and the Philippines, requirements of Korean and Philippine military forces, North/South talks in Korea, the Korean five year modernization plan, Korean forces in Viet-Nam, PL 480 and AID programs for Korea and the Philippines to include US disaster relief. These subjects are being addressed in briefings in the Department, Defense, AID and CIA for Staff Del prior to their departure.

6. All three officers carry top secret clearance and should be given a full and frank exposition of the situations and problems in countries concerned, subject to the following specific guidance which has generally applied on previous Staff Del trips:

(a) The Department of State and Defense and decided that witnesses before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will be instructed not to testify on (1) nuclear matters; (2) military contingency plans or rules of engagement, past, present or proposed, including operational details of any joint integrated air defense arrangements; (3) operational details of sensitive operations, the disclosure of which is likely to jeopardize safety of US forces; (4) if supporting assistance, MASF, and MAP plans and programs beyond FY 73 are brought up, you should only say that no decisions have been taken beyond FY 73. Information provided committee staff should be limited accordingly. However,

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staff was supplied PACAF Reg 55-2 in connection with earlier hearings. Moreover, political constraints and beyond in SEA may be discussed. Information on nuclear deployments abroad and political implications thereof have previously been made available to full SFRC. Further inquiries by Staff Del should be referred to Washington. Staff Del members will be informed of this position prior to their departure.

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7. Requests for presidential correspondence or communications, other than that made public, should be referred to Washington for answer. Request for MAP planning documents, PARA submissions and other internal working papers of the Executive Branch should also be referred to Washington.

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8. Requests for any information or documents about which there is any doubt should be referred promptly to Washington. Every attempt should be made to avoid confrontation over denial or access to such material. But, if necessary, you may advise Staff Del you are not authorized to furnish documents of certain sensitivity.

9. You should report, advising the Departments of State and Defense in detail, as to the discussions with the Staff, investigations conducted, documents to which they had access, and those documents which they had requested but not seen. Copies of all papers provided should be forwarded to Washington.

10. Committee staff have advised that they will wish to speak with some foreign officials and you should facilitate if appropriate.

11. Addressees advise subordinate posts and commands as appropriate.

12. Advise Department of State of developments and all changes in itinerary which is subject to change and readjustment after Staff Del arrival in Seoul, Manila and Tokyo.

13. Military transportation being authorized by Septel.